TO: Director, Office of Information Resources Management

FROM: Acting Director, Division of Systems Management

SUBJECT: Extensions to the 1996 RPMS Programming Standards and Conventions

Issue

New extensions to the 1996 RPMS Programming Standards and Conventions (SAC).

Background

The 1996 RPMS Programming Standards and Conventions (SAC) was approved on June 27, 1996. In order to keep this document current, flexible, and usable, there is a provision for periodically updating it. These updates are called "extensions". An extension as defined in the RPMS Software Handbook is "an addition, deletion, or modification to the current SAC document." Extensions have the full weight of the original SAC. They will be issued as needed.

Approval

The following are SAC Extensions approved by IHS as part of our 1996 SAC.

1.   Section 2.2.15 Changed Lines (Page 8, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

2.2.15 Changed Lines Lines changed from the standard release will be marked with a semicolon and comment. This comment will contain the Agency and site identification, the programmer's initials, the date of the change, and reason for the change. Duplicate and comment out the original line of code. Additional comment lines may be used.

e.g., CHGLINE;
;S ZXXX=3
S AXXX=3 ;IHS/ABQD/FBD 04/01/96
;This was changed to conform to IHS SAC.

NEW WORDING:

2.2.15 Changed Lines Lines or blocks of code changed from the standard release must be clearly marked to distinguish the original code from the new code. Duplicate and comment out the original line/block of code. Only one comment line containing the agency, site, programmer initials, date of change, reason for change, and patch, if applicable, is required. This comment line can be located at the top of the routine, before the line of the code change or on the line of the code change. Multiple comment lines are acceptable. If the changed code contains a $TEXT reference, the old line can be moved above the Entry Point so long as its original

location is clearly indicated.

Sample of What a Changed Block of Code Might Look Like :

```
;IHS/ADC/FAA 04/01/96 APPLICABLE PATCH #  REASON FOR CHANGE
;BEG ORG CODE
;S Y=2
;More old code
;More old code
;END ORG CODE
;BEG NEW CODE
S X=1
Additional lines of code
Additional lines of code
;END NEW CODE
```

EFFECT AND RATIONAL: The old wording required each line of changed code to contain the programmer's initials, etc. This was cumbersome and increased the sizes of routines unnecessarily. Programmers were required to document on the changed lines without the flexibility of documenting such changes at the beginning of the routine, before the changed line or after the changed line. The new wording should provide more flexibility but still allow the support personnel the ability to distinguish original code from changed code.

2.   Section 2.1.14 Entry Points, (Page 8, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

2.2.14 Entry Points Lines that are entry points (referenced by a DO or GOTO in other routines) will consist only of a label and a semi-colon followed by "entry point" or the abbreviation of "EP". An optional comment which describes the entry point may follow the entry point comment.

e.g., CLEAR;EP - CLEARS SCREEN
e.g., CLEAR;ENTRY POINT - CLEARS SCREEN

NEW WORDING: (Changes underlined)

2.2.14 Entry Points   Lines that are entry points (referenced by a DO or GOTO in other routines) will consist only of a label and a semi-colon followed by " <u>ENTRY POINT</u> " or the abbreviation of "EP". An optional comment which describes the entry point may follow the entry point comment.

e.g., CLEAR;EP - CLEARS SCREEN
e.g., CLEAR;ENTRY POINT - CLEARS SCREEN

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

This change has the text agree with the sample given.

3.   Section 2.8.1 Device Handling, (Page 21, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

2.8.1 Device Handling All device selection and closing will be made through the use of the Kernel supported references. See sections 6.3 and 6.9 for specific information about the OPEN and CLOSE Commands.

NEW WORDING: (Changes underlined)

2.8.1   Device Handling   All device selection and closing will be made through the use of the Kernel supported references. See Sections   <u>2.4.9</u> and <u>2.4.3</u> for specific information about the OPEN and CLOSE   <u>c</u>ommands.

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

This change corrects two section references and changes an incorrect capitalization.

4.   Appendix C, Section 6.1 Position 8: (Page 35, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

6.1 Position 8 Character position 8 in a documentation file will contain one of the following codes.

<u>Code</u>   <u>Description</u>

u   User Manual
t   Technical Manual
s   Security Manual
r   Readme File

NEW WORDING: (Changes underlined)

6.1 Position 8 Character position 8 in a documentation file will contain one of the following codes.

<u>Code</u>   <u>Description</u>

u   User Manual
t   Technical Manual
s   Security Manual
r   Readme File
<u>d</u>   <u>Developer/Programmer Manual</u>

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

A need was identified for a code to accommodate a Programmer manual.

5.   Appendix F, Section 3.9.3 HELVETICA 10 POINT BOLD (Page 54, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

HELVETICA 10 POINT BOLD will be used in the computer-interactive sections to indicate the information type by the user in response to the computer prompts.

NEW WORDING: (Changes underlined)

HELVETICA 10 POINT BOLD or   ARIAL 10 POINT BOLD   will be used in the computer-interactive sections to indicate the information type by the user in response to the computer prompts.

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

Arial is very similar to Helvetica font. Some programs do not provide Helvetica fonts but do have Arial fonts.

6.   Appendix F, Section 3.16 Page Numbers (Page 55, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

3.16 Page Numbers Place page numbers in the footer. All pages should be numbered except for the title pages and their blank back sheet. Use lower case Roman numerals to number pages that contain the table of contents, preface, acknowledgements or lists of tables.

NEW WORDING: (Changes underlined)

3.16 Page Numbers   Place page numbers in the footer. All pages   must be numbered consecutively   except for the title pages and their blank back sheet. Use lower case Roman numerals to number pages that contain the table of contents, preface, acknowledgments   or lists of tables.   All other pages must be numbered 1 to 999999   (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5....).

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

Change is to correct the British spelling to the American spelling of the word acknowledgment. The major change is to require consecutive numbering of pages in manuals using strictly regular numeric numbering. Using other types of numbering was found very cumbersome and time-consuming when attempting to print out a .pdf file and

keep the pages in correct sequence when the printer had problems requiring reprinting in the middle of a document.

7.   Procedure for Performing Beta Testing, Section 1 (Page 191, RPMS Software Handbook)

        1.1   Reference to **Attachment A** in sentence three should read:

SRCB will obtain the appropriate signatures from the testing participants, as applicable, as outlined in 2.

        1.2   First sentence, reference to **1.1.1** and **notes** should be changed to read as follows:

Concurrent with Item 1.1, the responsible developer will submit a set of package files, i.e., routines, install guide, globals, and other files, to SRCB for a preliminary review.

        1.4   Reference to **Attachment B** should be changed to read 2.2.

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

Change necessary to correct references that changed when the new SAC was written.

8.   RPMS Software Certification Policy and Guidelines, Section 6.1, d. and e. Minimum Documentation Required (Page 175, RPMS Software Handbook)

        OLD WORDING

        d. Installation Instructions (Notes File).

        NEW WORDING: (Changes underlined)

        d.   Installation Instructions (Install Guide File.)

        OLD WORDING:

        e. ReadMe File identifying the word processing package used to prepare the manual, type of printer used in the process, fonts used throughout the manual, and list of files included in the documentation files.

        NEW WORDING:

        e.   ReadMe File is only required if the electronic version of the manuals requires more than one file (Ex., User Manual is so extensive that it has to be broken

into two or more individual files). The ReadMe file is used to identify the list of files included within the documentation file.

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

Changed d. to conform to the rest of handbook which refers to the Install Guide not the Notes file. It was found that there are limitations on file sizes within certain word processing packages. This required breaking a large user manual into multiple files before the manual could be completed. Also, the original wording of this section was prepared prior to the implementation of .pdf files so there is no need to specify the word processing package or printer used anymore.

9.   Procedure for Submitting Packages for Verification, Section 1.1.2 (Page 200, RPMS Software Handbook)

OLD WORDING:

1.1.2 There will be a minimum of four or five individual files required. A tar file is not acceptable. They are:

Routines file (always required)
Globals file (if globals being included)
Installation Guide (always required)
Release Notes (if subsequent release)
Documentation file (always required)

If additional files are required, coordination is required between the responsible developer and the SRCB.

NEW WORDING: (Changed lines underlined)

1.1.2   There will be a minimum of four or five individual files required. They are:

Routines file (always required)
Globals file (if globals being included)
Installation Guide (always required)
Release Notes (if   not the first release)
Documentation file (always required)
ReadMe file (if applicable)

If additional files are required, coordination is required between the responsible developer and the SRCB.

EFFECT AND RATIONALE:

The restriction from submitting a tar file of a package is removed. The ReadMe file which is referenced elsewhere in the handbook is included in the list of possible files that can be

submitted for verification.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately.

Please make appropriate changes as noted above to all copies of the 1996 RPMS Software Handbook in your possession and disseminate these changes to affected personnel.

RAYMOND WILLIE

cc: Area ISCs
   IHS Developers and Development Contractors
   DSM
   DDPS